

Application No. 10/050,664
Amendment "A" dated April 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed December 28, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for disinfecting a root canal during an endodontic procedure, comprising:
providing access to a root canal of a tooth; and
introducing a viscous disinfecting composition into the root canal in a controlled manner in order for the disinfecting composition to remain substantially on or within the tooth while disinfecting the root canal, wherein said viscous disinfecting composition is able to adhere to walls of the root canal so as to enable the disinfecting composition to disinfect the root canal.
2. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said viscous disinfecting composition comprises sodium hypochlorite, water, and a gelling agent.
3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the gelling agent comprises at least one finely divided particulate gelling agent.
4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the finely divided particulate gelling agent comprises at least one of fumed silica or fumed aluminum oxide.
5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the gelling agent comprises at least one polymeric gelling agent.
6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the gelling agent comprises carboxypolymethylene.

Application No. 10/050,664
Amendment "A" dated April 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed December 28, 2004

7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the sodium hypochlorite is included in a range of about 0.01% to about 50% by weight of the viscous disinfecting composition.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the sodium hypochlorite is included in a range of about 0.1% to about 40% by weight of the viscous disinfecting composition.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the sodium hypochlorite is included in a range of about 1% to about 20% by weight of the viscous disinfecting composition.

10. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the sodium hypochlorite is included in a range of about 2% to about 10% by weight of the viscous disinfecting composition.

11. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
cleaning at least a part of the root canal with an endodontic tool; and
irrigating the root canal to remove the viscous disinfecting composition and any loosened pulp or other debris.

12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the endodontic tool comprises an endodontic file and wherein the viscous disinfecting composition is introduced into the root canal by means of the endodontic file.

13. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition is left in the root canal for a time in a range of about 1 minute to about 1 hour.

14. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition has a viscosity in a range from about 500 cps to about 200,000 cps.

Application No. 10/050,664
Amendment "A" dated April 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed December 28, 2004

15. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition has a viscosity in a range from about 5,000 cps to about 100,000 cps.

16. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition has a viscosity in a range from about 10,000 cps to about 50,000 cps.

17. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition has a pH in a range from about 8 to about 12.5.

18. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition has a pH in a range from about 10 to about 12..

19. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition has a pH in a range from about 11 to about 11.5.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for disinfecting a root canal during an endodontic procedure, comprising:

providing access to a root canal of a tooth; and

introducing a viscous disinfecting composition into the root canal comprising sodium hypochlorite, water, and a gelling agent comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of fumed silica, fumed aluminum oxide, and carboxypolymethylene.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~17~~ 20, wherein the gelling agent comprises fumed silica.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~17~~ 20, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition has a pH in a range of about 10 to about 12.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~17~~ 20, wherein the viscous disinfecting composition has a pH in a range of about 11 to about 11.5.

Application No. 10/050,664
Amendment "A" dated April 4, 2005
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24. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~17~~ 20, further comprising:
cleaning at least a part of the root canal with an endodontic tool; and
irrigating the root canal to remove the viscous disinfecting composition and any
loosened pulp or other debris.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for disinfecting a root canal during an
endodontic procedure comprising:

providing access to a root canal of a tooth; and
introducing a viscous disinfecting composition into the root canal comprising
sodium hypochlorite in an amount in a range of about 1% to about 20% by weight, water,
and at least one of fumed silica or fumed aluminum oxide in an amount in a range of
about 1% to about 10% by weight.

26. (Original) A method as defined in claim 25, wherein the viscous disinfecting
composition further includes a base in an amount so that the pH of the composition is in a range
of about 10 to about 12.

27. (Original) A method as defined in claim 25, wherein the viscous disinfecting
composition further includes a base in an amount so that the pH of the composition is in a range
of about 11 to about 11.5.